

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Tennessee

United States of America

v.

ANTONIO DEWAYNE WATKINS

Defendant(s)

Case No.

1:24-mj- 213

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of July 3, 2024 in the county of Hamilton in the
Eastern District of Tennessee, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)& (b)(1)(A)
18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)
18 U.S.C. § 924(c)

Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine
Felon in Possession of a Firearm
Possession of Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit, incorporated herein.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Kevin Cobb, ATF Task Force Officer

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

August 6, 2024

Judge's signature

City and state: Chattanooga, Tennessee

Honorable Christopher H. Steger

Printed name and title

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sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all my knowledge about this matter.

3. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, I submit there is probable cause to believe that Antonio Dewayne WATKINS, possessed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A); possessed a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c); and possessed a firearm as a convicted felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

Facts Establishing Probable Cause

4. On July 3, 2024, while at Dick's Sporting Goods, located at 2100 Hamilton Place Boulevard, Chattanooga, Tennessee, CPD Gun Team Investigation E. Lee observed four occupants exit a Black Audi SUV and enter the store. Investigator Lee recognized two of the individuals and knew them each to have a history of narcotics and firearm related arrests.

5. While the occupants were inside the store, Investigator Lee observed, in plain view from outside the vehicle, a bag of marijuana in the center console and marijuana packaging in the back seat. Investigator Lee also noted a gray shoulder bag/satchel on the center console.

6. A few minutes later, Inv. Lee observed one of the occupants, later identified as Antonio Dewayne WATKINS, return to the Audi SUV. CPD Patrol Officers arrived in the parking lot and approached the Audi SUV. Officer Pereira approached from the rear and observed WATKINS to be the sole occupant of the vehicle. WATKINS was seated in the passenger seat. A subsequent review of surveillance footage showed WATKINS to be the driver of the Audi SUV when it arrived in the parking lot. Officer Pereira exited his vehicle and gave WATKINS verbal commands to put his hands up. WATKINS did not comply, and Pereira observed him reaching

downward. WATKINS then exited the passenger seat and walked toward the front of the Audi SUV away from Pereira and threw the keys underneath another car in the parking lot. Officers detained WATKINS.

7. Officers conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle based on the odor of marijuana and the packaging inside the vehicle. Officer Pereira opened the passenger door and observed a semi-automatic pistol in the front passenger seat floorboard where WATKINS had been seated. Inv. Lee advised the pistol was not in the floorboard when he previously looked inside the vehicle. Officers also observed the gray shoulder bag/satchel to was located the driver's seat, and no longer on the center console.

8. Officers recovered the pistol—a Glock, Model 31, .357 Sig, semi-automatic pistol. The pistol was loaded with a round in the chamber. Inside the grey shoulder bag/satchel, officers recovered a large ziplock bag with approximately 3.7 ounces of methamphetamine, a digital scale, and multiple small baggies containing other suspected controlled substances. Officers located a bag of marijuana in the front passenger door, two bags of marijuana and a digital scale in the center console, a digital scale in the glove box, a bag of marijuana in the pocket behind the driver's seat, clear plastic baggies in the rear driver's side door, and a bag of marijuana in the third row of seats.

9. WATKINS had \$1872 US Currency in varying denominations and two cell phones on his person.

10. WATKINS is a previously convicted felon, having sustained convictions for possession of cocaine for resale, possession of marijuana for resale, and voluntary manslaughter. WATKINS was released from the Tennessee Department of Corrections on May 1, 2024, having served a prison sentence for his voluntary manslaughter conviction.

11. Based on my training and experience, I know the following:

- a. Glock pistols are not manufactured in Tennessee.
- b. 3.7 ounces of methamphetamine is a distribution amount and more than what one person possesses for personal use or consumption. The weight of the methamphetamine and other evidence recovered is indicative of intent to distribute.
- c. Traffickers that deal in illegal narcotics will keep firearms for their own protection as well as the protection of their product and proceeds.

Conclusion

12. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, I submit there is probable cause to believe that Antonio Dewayne WATKINS, possessed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A); possessed a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c); and possessed a firearm as a convicted felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) and request this Court issue a warrant for WATKINS arrest.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT



Kevin Cobb
Task Force Officer
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of August 2024.



CHRISTOPHER H. STEGER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE